

## **Goal 1: Develop an Outstanding Education System and a Highly Qualified Workforce**

Providing support to industry and statewide economic development is a core mission of North Carolina's education and workforce development entities. North Carolina's workforce development organizations are recognized as national leaders in economic and workforce development. North Carolina's education and workforce development system must be further strengthened in order to build a workforce with the skills necessary to train for highly skilled occupations, to obtain livable wages, and to attract and retrain workers for high-growth industries in the new economy.

### **Objective 1.1 – Support continued full funding for enrollment growth in the University of North Carolina, the North Carolina Community College System and K-12 public education.**

The period from job creation to job obsolescence is brief and continues to shrink. Emerging careers demand more skills, knowledge, and education than traditional careers that are in decline. Current funding is not adequate, nor does it provide enough flexibility to allow our educational institutions (K-12 through university) to support a highly trained workforce. Continued enrollment increases due to the need for upgrading the workforce and retraining dislocated workers from our traditional businesses and industries have placed a burden on the current faculty, staff and equipment of the colleges.

The North Carolina Community College System serves these populations of transitional workers year round and in a consistent effort to fulfill their needs for retraining and enhanced employability due to more marketable skills. The enrollment growth already generates funding needs during the academic year; funding needs during the summer must be addressed as well.

The Workforce Development and Education Committee recommends a commitment for continued full funding for enrollment growth in the University of North Carolina, the North Carolina Community College System, and K-12 public education to allow our educational systems to adjust course offerings to reflect actual demand.

#### Progress Measures for Objective 1.1:

1. The Economic Development Board, along with the North Carolina Community College System, the University of North Carolina and the Department of Public Education, will communicate their support of continued full funding for enrollment growth in the University of North Carolina, NCCCS, and K-12 public education to the Governor and the General Assembly.
2. The North Carolina General Assembly will continue to fund both community colleges and the University of North Carolina through the 2008 fiscal year for full enrollment growth.